

# THE KABUL TIMES

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Kabul 14° Mostly cloudy | Kandahar 27° Sunny | Herat 20° Light rain | Jalalabad 23° Partly cloudy | Mazar-e-Sharif 17° Cloudy | Bamyan 2° Rain and snow

## Book Evaluation Commission holds meeting

KABUL: The meeting of the Book Evaluation Commission was held with the Deputy Minister of Information and Culture for Publications Affairs, Mawlavi Muhajer Farahi, on the chair, evaluating a number of books, the ministry said in a statement Monday. Mawlavi Farahi talked about the achievements and decisions of the previous meeting and added that books that do not conflict with the principles of Sharia and national values are allowed to be published, according to the statement. The members of the commission evaluated a number of books, the statement said, adding that the commission's annual report has also been shared with the participants. The commission decided to allow the publication of those books that have been written according to Islamic and Afghani values, the statement added. Also, a number of books that have been presented to the commission for assessment were distributed to the commission's members, and they were instructed to evaluate and share their findings in the next meeting.




**The Kabul Times**

## Azerbaijani, Kyrgyz investors to invest in country's oil, gas

KABUL: A number of Azerbaijani and Kyrgyz investors, during a meeting with Mullah Hedayatullah Badri, the acting Minister of Mines and Petroleum, said Monday that they are ready to invest in the oil and gas sector in Afghanistan.

Considering the investment opportunities in Afghanistan to be suitable, the investors also expressed readiness to build a standard mining laboratory in the country, according to a statement from the ministry.

The Azerbaijani and Kyrgyz investors asked the ministry to cooperate with them in this regard, the statement added.

Meanwhile, Mullah Badri said that the Islamic Emirate has always tried to attract foreign investors and provide them with necessary facilities in the country.

Over the past three years, the process of mining in the country has been legalized, attracting foreign investors in the mining sector.

**The Kabul Times**

## Logar exported fresh fruits, vegetables worth 8 bln Afghani in 11 months, official

PUL-E-ALAM: The Chamber of Commerce and Investment Department of Logar said Monday in a statement that fresh fruits and vegetables worth 8 billion Afghani have been exported to the world markets within 11 months of the current solar year.

Wali Mohammad Yaqoob Momand, the head of the Logar Chamber of Commerce and Investment said: "In total, we have exported one million tons, of which 700,000 tons were vegetables, while the remaining 300,000 tons included fruits such as peaches and grapes." Meanwhile, several traders have urged the government to establish alternative transit routes and provide more marketing opportunities for domestic products. Previously, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce reported that 296,000 metric tons of fresh fruits including grapes, pomegranates, figs, apricots, cherries, berries, melons, blackberries and watermelons have been exported to Pakistan, India, the United Arab Emirates, China, the UK, the Netherlands, the United States, France, Australia, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Canada. Logar province is considered one of the most important agricultural regions in Afghanistan, and the production of fresh fruits and vegetables is considered valuable for the country's economy. **The Kabul Times**



## Attempts to smuggle over 15,000 wild birds, animals thwarted this year




KABUL: The National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) said the other day in a statement that the smuggling of 15,313 species of birds and wild animals has been prevented within 11 months of the ongoing solar year.

The birds and wild animals, including falcons, vultures, bears, and other species, have been returned to nature after receiving treatment, the statement said.

Since the establishment of the Islamic Emirate, 3,000 awareness campaigns have been conducted in 34 provinces, directly educating 500,000 people, to prevent the smuggling of birds and wild animals, the statement further added.

Afghanistan, with its diverse and rich nature, is home to many rare animal species.

However, illegal hunting, smuggling, and habitat destruction have seriously threatened these animals.

**The Kabul Times**

## Minister Jalali, holds talks on various health issues with UNFPA representative

KABUL: The acting Minister of Public Health Mawlavi Noor Jalal Jalali, in a meeting with Kwabena Asante-Ntiamoah, the UNFPA representative in Afghanistan, discussed various health issues, here in Kabul, the ministry said in a statement Monday.

In the meeting, the two sides talked about improving the management of health aid in Afghanistan, strengthening the health system, the effectiveness of mobile health teams, and aligning health services with the Ministry's policies and priorities, said the statement.

"The effectiveness of health services provided by mobile teams would increase significantly if they were converted into permanent centers," the statement quoted Mawlavi Noor Jalal Jalali as saying.

According to the statement, he also emphasized the importance of aligning health services with the Ministry's policies and improving the management of international aid to the health sector.

Currently, some mobile teams are providing health services to people in remote areas of the country

**The Kabul Times**

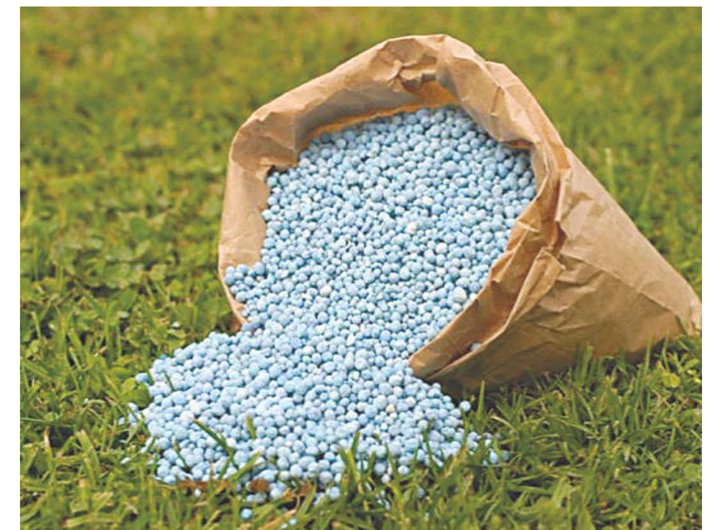
## Thousands of farmers receive modified seeds, fertilizer in Baghlan

PUL-E-KHUMRI: A total of 30,000 farmers have been provided with modified seeds and chemical fertilizer in the country's northern province of Baghlan, the provincial Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock Department said in a statement Monday.

To support farmers and increase crop yields, the modified seeds including wheat and rice have been distributed to 30,000 farmers in the province, the statement said.

Modified seeds increased crop yields in agriculture, reduced costs for food or drug production, reduced the need for pesticides, enhanced nutrient composition and food quality, resistance to pests and disease, greater food security, and medical benefits to the world's growing population.

The Kabul Times



## More than 260 newly trained cadets join national police in Parwan

KABUL: A total of 263 newly graduated cadets have joined the country's national police after completing two months of ideological, professional, tactical, technical, and public relations skills training in Parwan province, the Ministry of Interior Affairs said in a statement Monday.

Addressing the graduation ceremony, Qari Mohammad Javed Zia-ur-Rahman, the provincial Commander, while appreciating the efforts of the officials in the field of education, urged the newly graduated cadets to treat people well and preserve and strengthen the Islamic system and never be deceived by enemy propaganda.

After receiving certificates, the police cadets who were the residents of Panjshir, Kapisa and Parwan, vowed to serve the people and tighten their security everywhere in the country, the statement said.

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*International-Daily*

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**Food for thought**

***Today's generation guarantees our bright future***

# Women's rights ensured in Afghanistan under Islamic Sharia

Women have their position in the holy Islamic Sharia, and no one can deny that they make an integral part of the Islamic society. But, in a world where the darkness of atheism and corruption has affected human nature and turned values upside down, the enemies of Islam and their media agents, with their dirty pens and poisonous tongues, are trying to extinguish the light of Sharia.

The real rights of women are not immorality and being deprived of the gem of modesty, but under the holy Islamic Sharia, they enjoy their highest position of being a mother, sister, and wife and the real teacher of their children in their families. But, those who have thrown women into the stage of immorality and deprived them of the gem of modesty today have deprived women of their real rights.

They should know that in the Islamic system, women are not the playthings of lustful people but are protected within the framework of Islam and the strong fortress of the holy Sharia like precious gems.

Islam, as the sun of guidance, has brought women out of the dust and darkness of ignorance and has granted them a place that no law in the world can provide, while in Afghanistan, women live in security and dignity like a pearl in the shell of Sharia.

Those who have deprived women of their chastity in their own countries and made them prey to carnal predators have come today to teach and dictate to us about women's rights.

They are the same wolves who, dressed as sheep, scream with compassion, but in reality, they seek to tear the veil of modesty and extinguish the lamp of chastity. In Afghanistan, under the Islamic system, a woman is a mother, a teacher, and the shining gem of the home and society. Islam has measured their rights by the measure of divine justice, not by the Western standards in which they are immersed. A woman's right is not to be dragged out of her home and displayed in the markets of immorality; rather, a woman's right is to live in security and dignity under the shadow of Islam and the light of Sharia and to leave home for any necessary work outside; either work in a safe and secure environment, take her ailing child to the doctor or address other lawful important issues. In Afghanistan, we have a system based on Islamic Sharia, and there is no oppression or excess; rather, there is justice and wisdom throughout.

Those who have enslaved women in their lands to slavery cannot accept that in Afghanistan, women have dignity, security, and sanctity. But we say with complete certainty. This land is the land of religion and Sharia, and this nation is a believing nation. In our country, women will continue to shine and will never be captured by the darkness of a corrupt and seductive civilization.

So, any plan to convert the holy Islamic sharia from its real path, either about women or any other route, should look back to Afghanistan's history, in which women had a duty similar to men as they enjoyed at the beginning of the holy Islam under the guidance of the holy prophet of Islam.

# Key responsibilities of the government in Ramadan

*The government, through the Ministry of Public Health, in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Culture and the media, can implement educational programs to raise awareness about healthy nutrition for different age groups during Ramadan, thereby preventing such problems.*

As mentioned in the previous sections, the government, both from a religious obligation standpoint and in terms of providing public services, must enhance the level of service delivery to its citizens during the holy month of Ramadan.

This initiative not only strengthens the foundation of the government and softens the hearts of the people toward its orders and policies but also becomes a means of divine support, blessings, and sustainability of governance by Allah Almighty.

As an Islamic community, we believe that development, security, the survival of the state, and overall prosperity are all granted by Allah, who softens people's hearts and opens the doors of blessings.

Therefore, assisting the servants of Allah in this month paves the way for the continuity of government and governance.

Continuing with the fundamental responsibilities of the state during Ramadan, another critical duty is to provide proper healthcare services to the people.

Although the necessity and importance of this responsibility have already been extensively discussed by this author in previous sections, it is essential to reiterate that due to dietary changes and shifts in meal timings during Ramadan, certain health issues tend to worsen, increasing the need for medical services.

For instance, diabetic patients, heart patients, and individuals with special medical conditions require more medication and medical care.

The government, through the Ministry of Public Health and the Medical Council, is obligated to take all necessary measures in advance.

For example, monitoring medicine prices, encouraging private hospitals to provide high-quality yet affordable or even free healthcare services can help address this issue effectively.

Governments should allocate special budgets during Ramadan to ensure easier access to healthcare services.

In many countries, charitable health centers operate more actively during this month, and governments can support these centers to improve public healthcare.

The government must also ensure the availability of essential medicines and control their prices to prevent difficulties for patients.

Additionally, setting up mobile clinics in underprivileged areas can improve access to healthcare, enabling faster and better medical treatment.Furthermore, Afghanistan is a country where the population has limited awareness of health and proper nutrition, and the dietary habits of its people have always been unstandardized and problematic.

One of the major issues during Ramadan is malnutrition and the consequences of improper food consumption.

Some individuals consume unhealthy foods at iftar and suhoor (Iftar is the fast-breaking meal after sunset while Suhoor is the meal before sunrise), which can lead to digestive disorders and other health complications.

The government, through the Ministry of Public Health, in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Culture and the media, can implement educational programs to raise awareness about healthy nutrition for different age groups during Ramadan, thereby preventing such problems.

In conclusion, the holy month of Ramadan presents an opportunity for governments to not only gain spiritual rewards but also to strengthen social ties and fulfill their fundamental responsibilities toward the people with greater sensitivity, as they will ultimately be accountable to Allah Almighty.

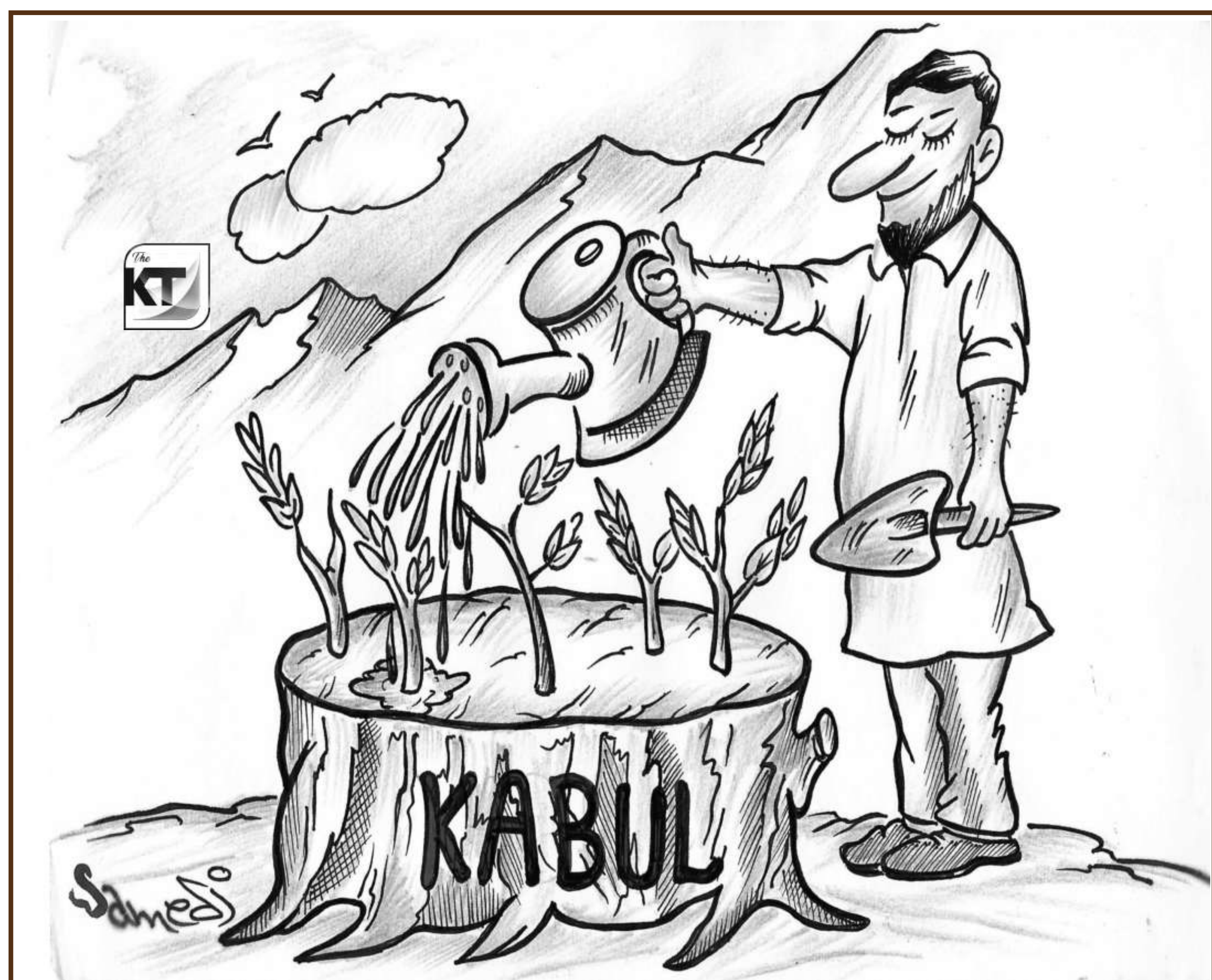
Ensuring the basic needs of citizens, raising public awareness, regulating markets, supporting the underprivileged and sick, and assisting charitable organizations are some of the measures that can improve the overall condition of society during this blessed month.

Additionally, the state should utilize this opportunity to enhance public welfare, strengthen justice in society, and increase solidarity among citizens so that the true essence of Ramadan—worshipping Allah, empathy, and assisting those in need—is realized in the best possible way. May Allah, through the blessings of this sacred month, open the doors of mercy, security, prosperity, and eternal success upon us.

**The End.**

**Firooz Ahmad Ebrahimi**



# Security forces' efforts praise worthy for nationwide security

The United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, has recently confirmed that security is sure in Afghanistan in his quarterly report on Afghanistan's political, security, regional cooperation, human rights, and economic issues.

Guterres said that from November 2024 to January 2025, security-related incidents in Afghanistan decreased by 16.8% compared to the same three months last year.

According to the UN Secretary-General's report, "from 1 November 2024 to 31 January 2025, the United Nations recorded 2,081 security-related incident reports, marking a 16.8 percent decrease compared with the same period in 2023/2024."



He added that despite the end of conflicts over the past three years, Afghanistan's economy remains fragile amid the return of over 350,000 Afghan migrants from Iran and Pakistan in the past three months.

The report went on to mention that between 22 October 2024 and 7 January 2025, 356,329 Afghans are estimated to have returned to Afghanistan, excluding passport holders with valid visas.

The figure includes 59,217 from Pakistan and 297,112 from the Islamic Republic of Iran, with 173,506 of those individuals having been deported.

"To find a suitable solution to migrants' problems, the U.S., the UN, and European countries must engage with the Afghan government through diplomatic channels," Jannat Fahim Chakari, a political analyst, told TOLOnews TV.

While the Islamic Emirate has not yet responded to this report, it had previously assured the security of the entire country.

"The Afghan government should establish mutual understandings with regional and neighboring countries to further ensure peace and stability," said Najib Rahman Shamal, another political analyst.

The report also underscores the UN's commitment to helping Afghanistan achieve peace within its borders and with its neighbors, under UN Security Council Resolution 2721.

These reports are submitted quarterly by the UN Secretary-General to the Security Council.

The Islamic Emirate's security forces are committed to tirelessly working around the clock for maintaining security across the country.

The people and the Islamic Emirate officials welcome the efforts of the country's security forces to ensure the country's security by working from dawn to dusk to foil any malicious and anti-security plots and arrest criminals in the country.

They are working for the tranquility of the people and their country by dedicating their lives.

**Fida Mohammad**

# Afghanistan's strengthening relations with world

Afghanistan, under the Islamic Emirate leadership, has long announced that it's interested in extending its economic and political relations with the world, particularly the Islamic nations.

The leadership of the Islamic system has also assured that it would never interfere in other countries' internal affairs and warned against meddling in the country's affairs.

Also, the country has never been in favor of harming other nations, including regional and neighboring countries.

It wanted a good engagement based on political and economic relations with the world and, ultimately, recognition of the Islamic system.

On the other hand, some countries like the U.S. imposed sanctions on some of the leaders of the Islamic Emirate and imposed restrictions on their foreign travels.

Strong engagement and good interaction between the Islamic Emirate and other countries are developing.

Afghanistan is opening a new chapter of relations with the world, with the leaders time and again traveling to other countries to ensure that Afghanistan, as an integral part of the Islamic nations and an independent country, wants to develop and work hard for economic self-sufficiency.

A local report about the recent visit of the country's Minister of Foreign Affairs to Oman said that Mawlavi Amir Khan Muttaqi, the acting foreign minister, has traveled to that country at the invitation of Oman's foreign minister, Badr bin Hamad Albusaidi.

According to the report, Muttaqi is expected to meet with senior Omani officials during this visit and discuss strengthening political and economic relations as well as expanding bilateral cooperation.

The ministry of foreign affairs in a statement said: "The country's foreign minister is set to discuss the expansion of political, economic relations, and bilateral cooperation not only with the Omani foreign minister but also with other senior officials of that country."

Meanwhile, some experts view Amir Khan Muttaqi's visit to Oman as beneficial for fostering engagement in various sectors between Kabul and Muscat.

"From a diplomatic perspective, there should be readiness for an agreement so that both sides can appoint ambassadors in each other's countries," said Hadi Quraishi, a political analyst.

"If efforts are made to attract Omani investors to Afghanistan, this visit can be considered positive and beneficial for securing further economic cooperation for Afghanistan," said Mir Shaker Yaqubi, an economic analyst.

Previously, Amir Khan Muttaqi led a delegation to the United Arab Emirates to strengthen bilateral relations and economic cooperation and discuss the related issues with the host country's related officials.

The world has now realized that Afghanistan would never be a threat to other countries; rather, it is working for the security and peace of the war-affected nation and wants countrywide sure security.

So, good engagement should be strengthened between the Islamic Emirate and the regional and world countries to help the development projects resume and the process of the war-affected Afghanistan reconstruction strengthened.

The people and the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan share cooperation in the best of their abilities with the world in terms of bilateral cooperation, both economically and politically.

The world, particularly the U.S., should also resume good relations with Afghanistan and do its best to unfreeze Afghanistan's foreign assets and lift restrictions such as the travel ban on the Islamic Emirate leaders.

They also should return the country's military aircraft, as recently, the union of generals, officers, and former soldiers of the country's security forces, Shaur Gul Pashtun, has called on the United States to pay compensation for the killing of two million people in Afghanistan and the destruction of the country's villages.

He criticized Uzbekistan for handing over seven Black Hawk helicopters to the U.S. and urged neighboring countries to act responsibly, considering good neighborly relations and international laws.



"They destroyed millions of our weapons, two million people, and our villages. They must compensate us," said Shaur Gul Pashtun. The head of the union of generals, officers, and former soldiers also called on the United Nations to defend the rights of the Afghan people. "The international community, which defends human rights and international law, should also stand up for the rights of the Afghan people," he said.

At the same time, several former military officials have urged neighboring countries, particularly Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, to return all Afghan aircraft that landed in these countries following the fall of Ashraf Ghani's government.

"These military assets belong to the nation and the people.

They were part of the Republic's structure to establish a national army and security institutions," said Afzal Aman, former deputy minister of defense.

"The fifty-year war in Afghanistan has taught us many lessons, and we must unite," said Kamran Aman, a former military officer.

The union of generals, officers, and former soldiers issued a resolution demanding that Afghanistan's airspace be protected by neighboring countries and emphasized the return of former military personnel to the country.

This comes after Uzbekistan handed over seven Black Hawk helicopters to the U.S. last month out of the 46 Afghan military aircraft that had been transferred to the country.

**Inam Hashemi**

# Reconstruction process accelerated in Zabul, Uruzgan; 165 projects implemented

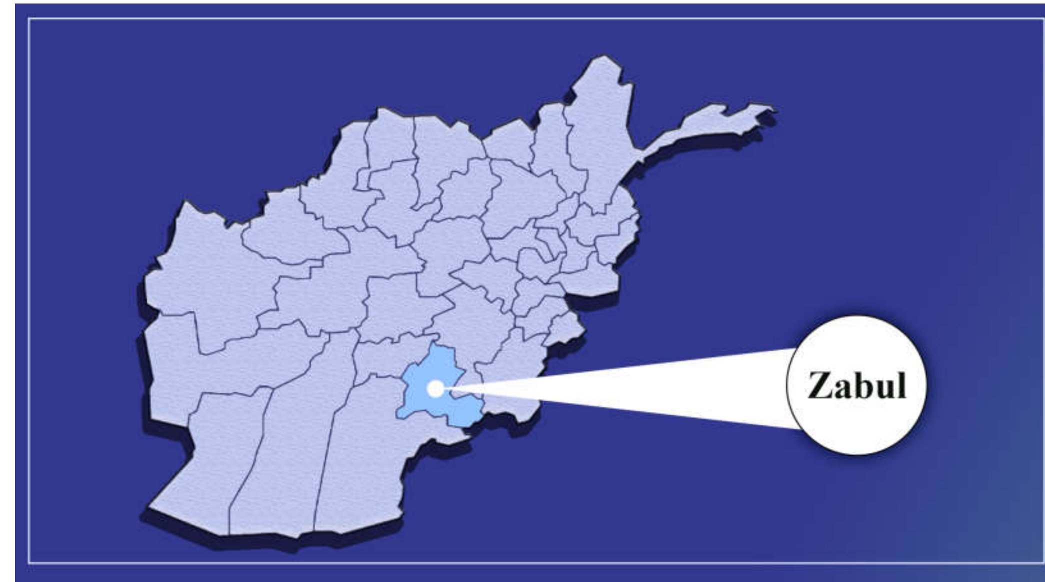
The country's southern provinces of Zabul and Uruzgan have been among the areas where significant reconstruction efforts were lacking over the past two decades.

However, since the Islamic Emirate came to power, government attention to these provinces has increased, leading to the implementation of numerous projects each year.

Zabul

Local officials in Zabul province report that in 1403 (solar year), a total of 54 projects were funded by the government's internal budget, while 59 other projects were implemented with the help of domestic organizations.

According to Zabul's Deputy Governor, Mawlavi Mohibullah Hamas, these 113 projects covered various sectors, including reconstruction, healthcare, agriculture, education, and others, significantly contributing to improving people's lives.




He further stated that since the Islamic Emirate took power, the government's focus on Zabul's development has increased, and he assured that even more projects will be implemented in the coming year.

Mawlavi Hamas said, "The number of development and non-development projects here has reached 113, implemented by both Emirate and non-Emirate organizations, including NGOs."

Although more projects have been implemented in the province compared to the past, residents of Zabul still complain that remote areas remain neglected.

A local resident, Rahmatullah, expressed his concerns, "We have a great need for education. Our children should have access to proper schooling.

Many remote areas of Zabul lack basic facilities, and they don't even have proper access to markets.

There are healthcare centers, but they lack medicine. Special attention must be given to remote regions."

In response, Zabul officials assure that in the new year, more projects will be implemented compared to this year, with special attention given to underprivileged areas.

Uruzgan

Meanwhile, in Zabul's neighboring province, Uruzgan, 52 projects worth over $46 million have been implemented by various organizations.

According to Mawlavi Moladad Hassan, the Head of Uruzgan's Economic Directorate, these projects have directly and indirectly benefited 2.8 million people and have created 2,581 job opportunities.

He also mentioned that compared to previous years, the number of projects implemented this year has increased by 14%.Mawlavi Hassan stated, "This year, with the help of organizations, 52 projects worth more than $46 million were implemented in Uruzgan, benefiting nearly 3 million people and creating job opportunities for 2,581 individuals.

Compared to last year, the number of projects has increased by 14%."

While local residents of Uruzgan appreciate the projects implemented in various sectors, they request that such programs continue in the future.

A resident of Uruzgan, Haji Shafiqullah Rahimi, urged organizations to focus on long-term initiatives rather than short-term aid.

He emphasized, "We are very grateful for the assistance provided by organizations, and we hope they continue their support in the future. However, our main request is that instead of short-term aid, they should focus on long-term, sustainable projects."

Following the end of the war in Afghanistan, reconstruction efforts have accelerated nationwide, with rapid development taking place across the country.

**Ehsanullah Wolasmal**

# Preservation of cultural heritage a shared responsibility of all

Hoot 20 of the solar calendar marks the National Day for Preservation of Cultural Heritage of the country. Of course, cultural heritage actually reflects the historical background and identity of countries.

Therefore, preserving the country's cultural heritage and historical monuments and relics is actually the shared duty and responsibility of the government and the nation.

Afghanistan, with its 5,000 years of history, has ancient historical sites, monuments and various artifacts in Kabul, the capital, and 34 provinces.

The government's relevant organs are doing their best to protect and preserve them, meaning that, when necessary, those historical and ancient monuments and sites that are under threat of destruction are renovated at appropriate times, prevented from destruction and protected, which is indeed a good measure.

The relevant organs are committed to protecting and renovating the country's historical and ancient monuments, places and artifacts.

Of course, in addition to the relevant organs of the Islamic Emirate, it is also the joint responsibility of all citizens to properly protect and monitor any historical monuments, places, or artifacts that are in our respective regions, because all of these are in fact the ancient assets of the Afghan people, and these artifacts, in general, represent from our ancient culture; therefore, protecting and monitoring them is the responsibility and duty of every Afghan.

It is also worth mentioning that our country, with its favorable geographical location, has beautiful natural landscapes, ancient sites, historical and cultural monuments, and beautiful handicrafts to attract tourists from all over the world.

With the improvement of the overall security situation across the country, the number of tourists has increased considerably in the past three years.

Tourism is a good source of income for many countries, and therefore it is considered very important by tourists from all over the world.

Fortunately, Afghanistan is one of those countries that has beautiful, interesting and attractive natural landscapes, ancient monuments and a variety of beautiful handicrafts in its 34 provinces.

Undoubtedly, preserving the country's cultural heritages can attract tourists at the regional and international levels.

Therefore, the relevant government organs of the Islamic Emirate, as well as private investors, should join forces in many provinces of the country and invest in various sectors, and especially create appropriate measures and necessary facilities to attract tourists, so that tourists from many regional and international countries can travel to different provinces of the country in different seasons of the year, bringing comprehensive economic benefits to government and private institutions and Afghans as a whole.

It is worth mentioning that the places visited by foreign and domestic tourists undoubtedly provide economic benefits as well as employment opportunities for many Afghans.

The more we protect the country's cultural heritage, the more foreign tourists visit our beautiful country.

It is the time to feel the responsively to take part in preservation of the country's cultural heritages as it is shared responsively of all Afghans.

**Sayed Sharif**

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SPORTS

# Afghanistan's beach soccer team departs for 2025 Asian Cup

Afghanistan's national beach soccer team has departed for Thailand to participate in the 2025 AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup.

The Afghanistan Football Federation confirmed that the team has traveled from Kabul to Thailand for a training camp and to prepare for the prestigious tournament.

Afghanistan has been placed in Group C, where they will face strong opponents, including Iran, the UAE, and Indonesia. These matches will be crucial as the team aims to make an impact on the continental stage.

The AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup 2025 is set to kick off on March 20, 2025, with Thailand hosting the tournament.

This event serves as the qualifying competition for the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup, making it a significant opportunity for Afghanistan to showcase its talent.

Afghanistan's beach soccer team has shown promising growth in recent years, and participation in this tournament will provide them with valuable international experience.



Competing against top teams like Iran and the UAE, which have strong beach soccer programs, will be a challenging yet important step in Afghanistan's development in the sport.

The team's preparations in Thailand will focus on strategic training, fitness improvement, and match simulations to ensure they perform at their best in the tournament.

With high hopes and determination, Afghanistan's beach soccer players are eager to represent their country on the Asian stage and compete for a strong finish.

The AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup is a platform for teams to prove their skills, and Afghanistan will be looking to make its mark in this highly competitive event.

**The Kabul Times**

# India ends decade-long wait, wins Champions Trophy for first time since 2013

India's national cricket team secured its third Champions Trophy title after defeating New Zealand by four wickets in the final match.

The thrilling encounter took place Sunday, where India successfully chased the 252-run target, reaching 254/6 in 49 overs, sealing the win with six balls to spare.

India's captain, Rohit Sharma, provided a strong start but was dismissed at a crucial moment.

However, Virat Kohli's composed performance in the middle overs and Ravindra Jadeja's decisive finishing touches guided India to victory.

Earlier, New Zealand posted a total of 251/7 in 50 overs. Daryl Mitchell played a key role, scoring 63 runs off 101 balls, while Michael Bracewell (53 not out) and Glenn Phillips (34 runs) contributed valuable runs.

Despite their efforts, India's bowlers effectively restricted New Zealand's progress. Among the Indian bowlers, Kuldeep Yadav (2 wickets for 40 runs) and Varun Chakravarthy (2 wickets for 45 runs) delivered impressive performances.

Additionally, Mohammed Shami and Ravindra Jadeja took crucial wickets to maintain pressure on New Zealand's batting lineup.

With this victory, India lifted the Champions Trophy for the first time since 2013, marking a historic achievement in their cricketing journey.



**The Kabul Times**

# Afghanistan secures third place in Brazil futsal tournament

Afghanistan's national futsal team claimed third place in the four-nation tournament in Brazil after defeating Greenland 4-2 in a penalty shootout. The match was part of the tournament's third-place playoff, where both teams battled for a podium finish.

The four-nation futsal tournament, hosted in Brazil, featured teams from Afghanistan, Greenland, Iran, and Brazil. The competition showcased intense matches, with each team aiming for top honors.

In the final match, host nation Brazil faced Iran in a highly anticipated showdown. Brazil delivered a dominant performance, defeating Iran 3-0 and securing the championship title. Afghanistan's victory over Greenland highlights the team's growing strength in international futsal. The penalty shootout win demonstrated the players' resilience and skill under pressure. Despite falling short of the final, Afghanistan's third-place finish in such a competitive tournament is a remarkable achievement.

The tournament not only provided valuable experience for Afghanistan's national team but also underscored their potential in the international futsal scene. With continued improvement and participation in such events, Afghanistan's futsal team is expected to achieve even greater success in the future.



**The Kabul Times**

# Zelenskyy due in Saudi Arabia for Ukraine-Russia peace talks with US officials

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is due to arrive in Saudi Arabia on Monday, a day ahead of crucial talks between Ukrainian and US officials on ending the war with Russia.

Highly anticipated negotiations on Tuesday on resolving the three-year conflict will see US and Ukrainian officials meet for the first time since Zelenskyy's disastrous White House visit last month.

Zelenskyy said he would on Monday meet Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman after which his team "will stay for a meeting on Tuesday with the American team".

At the talks in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah, US Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff has said Washington wants "to get down a framework for a peace agreement and an initial ceasefire as well".

Zelenskyy has said Ukraine is "fully committed to constructive dialogue", but wants its interests to be "taken into account in the right way".

"We hope for results, both in terms of bringing peace closer and continuing support," he said in his evening address on Sunday.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio will fly to Jeddah on Monday, the US State Department said. Mike Waltz, US President Donald Trump's national security adviser, has also confirmed his participation.



Zelenskyy said his negotiators will include Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiga and Defence Minister Rustem Umerov, his chief of staff Andriy Yermak and Pavlo Palisa, a military commander and Yermak's deputy.

Kyiv is in "constant contact with the US team," Zelenskyy said.Washington has currently suspended military aid to Ukraine as well as intelligence sharing and access to satellite imagery in a bid to force it to the table with Moscow, which launched its all-out invasion in February 2022 on orders from President Vladimir Putin.

Trump has renewed communication with Putin and criticised Zelenskyy, raising fears in Kyiv and among European allies that the US leader may try to force Ukraine to accept a settlement favoring Russia.

On Friday, however, Trump said he was considering further sanctions on Russia for "pounding" Ukraine on the battlefield.

Ukraine's European allies last week held a summit with Zelenskyy and announced they would greatly increase defense spending.

Britain and France have proposed a truce for Ukraine, at sea and in the air, and a halt to Russia's bombardment of Ukraine's power facilities.

Ukrainian and British diplomats held talks in Kyiv at the weekend, Zelenskyy said.

The Saudi talks come after the public altercation between Zelenskyy and Trump in the White House led to the Ukrainian leaving without signing a minerals deal demanded by the US leader.

**Alarabiya**

# Romanian far-right presidential hopeful barred from poll rerun

Romanian far-right populist Calin Georgescu has been barred from participating in May's presidential election rerun by the country's Central Electoral Bureau (BEC), triggering clashes between his supporters and police.

Last year, Romania's constitutional court annulled November's first round of the vote - in which he came first - after intelligence revealed Russia had been involved in 800 TikTok accounts backing him.The BEC rejected his candidacy on Sunday, saying it "doesn't meet the conditions of legality", as he "violated the very obligation to defend democracy". Georgescu called that decision a "direct blow" to democracy. He now has 24 hours from Sunday's verdict to submit an official appeal to the top court, which should issue a ruling within 72 hours.In a social media post, Georgescu called the ban a "direct blow to the heart of democracy worldwide". Tear gas was fired at supporters of the presidential hopeful as violence broke out between them and police while they gathered in their thousands outside the offices of the BEC in the capital Bucharest.

The BBC saw at least one car turned over, and the windows of neighbouring bars smashed. **bbc**

# North Korea fires ballistic missiles, South Korea says

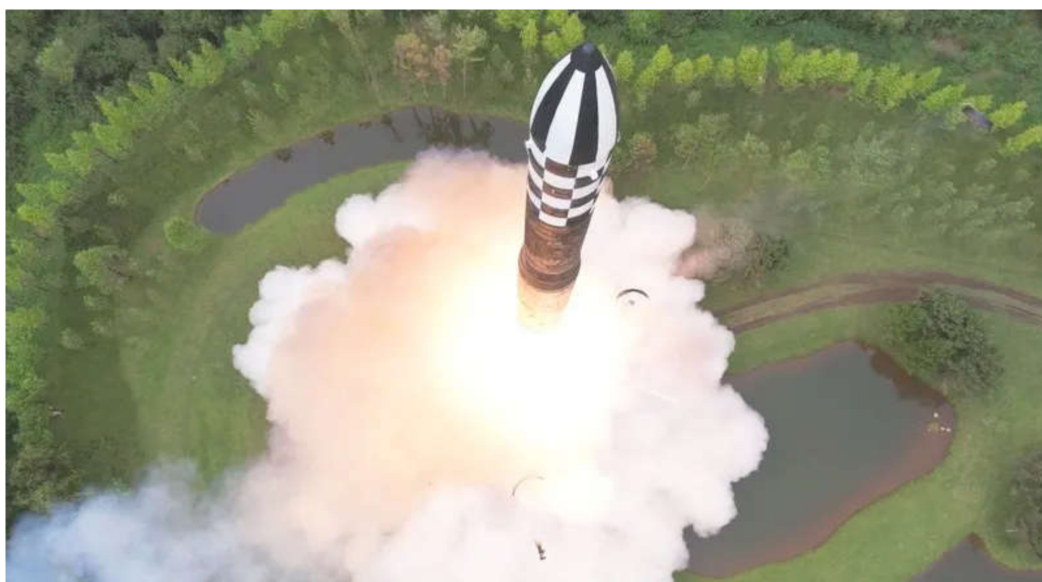
North Korea fired multiple unidentified ballistic missiles off its west coast on Monday, South Korea's military said, as the United States and South Korea kicked off annual joint military drills.

The missiles were fired towards the sea off the west coast at around 1:50 p.m. (0450 GMT), South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said in a text message sent to reporters.

The South Korean military has ramped up surveillance and vigilance, it said.

North Korean state media has criticized the annual joint military drills by the United States and South Korea that began on Monday, saying they would worsen the situation on the Korean peninsula.

The joint military exercises called Freedom Shield are due to run until March 20 and are aimed at strengthening readiness for threats such as North Korea, JCS has said previously. **Alarabiya**



# Carney talks tough on Trump threat - but can he reset relations?

Mark Carney's thumping victory in the race to succeed Justin Trudeau makes him not only leader of the Liberal Party but, by default, the next Canadian prime minister.It's an extraordinary result for a man with very little political experience.

He has never been elected as an MP, let alone served in a cabinet post.

What Carney does have though - as Governor of the Bank of Canada during the global financial crisis and Governor of the Bank of England during the Brexit negotiations - is a long track record in global finance during times of economic turbulence. And at a moment like this, Carney has been arguing, that could prove invaluable.

Politics in this country has been turned on its head as a result of what's happening south of the border, with US President Donald Trump launching a trade war and threatening to make Canada the 51st state of America.



Addressing a crowd of Liberal supporters after the result of the leadership contest was announced on Sunday evening, Carney promised to face down the threats from Trump, over the tariffs and the claims on Canada's sovereignty.

"Canada never, ever, will be part of America in any way, shape or form," he said.

"We didn't ask for this fight, but Canadians are always ready when someone else drops the gloves.

"Americans should make no mistake", he warned. "In trade, as in hockey, Canada will win."

He repeatedly referred to the US president by name and said his government would keep retaliatory tariffs in place until "America shows us respect".

How he will translate his strong language on the stage in Ottawa into practical solutions to those twin challenges was, however, far less clear.

Liberals might hope that Trudeau's exit from the stage will, in itself, help clear the air.**bbc**